

the country were understood, he and his Allies would support them, without seeking to favor any particular government.

The Abbe de Pradt then declared, in a tone of conviction, that we were all Royalists, and that the sentiments of France concurred with ours. The Emperor Alexander, adverting to the different governments which might be suitable to France, spoke of the maintenance of Bonaparte on the throne, the establishment of a Eegency, the choice of Eernadotte, and the recall of the Bourbons. M. de Talleyrand next spoke, and I well remember his saying to the Emperor of Russia, "Sire, only one of two things is possible. We must either have Bonaparte or Louis XVIII. Bonaparte, if you can support him ; but you cannot, for you are not alone. . . . We will not have another soldier in his stead. If we want a soldier, we will keep the one we have ; he is the first in the world. After him any other who may be proposed would not have ten men to support him. I say again, Sire, either Bonaparte or Louis XVIII. Anything else is an intrigue." <sup>1</sup> These remarkable words of the Prince de Benevento produced on the mind of Alexander all the effect we could hope for. Thus the question was simplified, being reduced now to only two alternatives ; and as it was evident that Alexander would have nothing to do with either Napoleon or his family, it was reduced to the single proposition of the restoration of the Bourbons.

On being pressed by us all, with the exception of M. de Talleyrand, who still wished to leave the question undecided between Bonaparte and Louis XVIII, Alexander at length declared that he would no longer treat with Napoleon. When

<sup>1</sup> " The Bourbons are a principle, all the rest is only an intrigue," is the phrase generally attributed to Talleyrand. The skilful use he made of his new principle of legitimacy should be read at length in his correspondence with Louis XVIII. during the Congress of Vienna (London, Beutley, 1881, 2 vols.). In his mouth it became a weapon for obtaining the restoration to the Bourbons of their former crowns, etc. But the application of the principle was sometimes troublesome. It was not easy to demand at one and the same time that Naples should be restored to the Bourbons because it was held by them before the Revolution, and that Avignon should be retained by the Bourbons in virtue of its having been torn by the Revolution from the Pope.

Avignon had belonged to the Pope from 1348, when Pope Clement VI. bought it from the Comtesse de Provence. The French Republic annexed it in 1791, and the Pope ceded it in 1797. When all the other States were reclaiming their dominions there was no reason to urge against the

Pope asking for his. A note, Talleyrand's *Correspondence*,  
vol. ii. p. 33 (Bentley, 1881), says that the Pope *did* claim it.